

Message Text

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73-62

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 PM-04 OC-06 CCO-00 /024 W

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R 141305Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4049

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

HQ USAF WASHDC/LGT

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

CHMAAG ADDIS ABABA

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB

MAC SCOTT AFB IL/DOZA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0547

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP ET

SUBJECT: AIR SUPPORT FOR ASMARA

REF: A. COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC 091944Z JUL 76, B. ASMARA 0504 (NOTAL)
(DTG 280710Z JUN 76), C. STATE 150359 (NOTAL)

1. REFTELS DISCUSS THE NATURE AND DIMENSIONS OF LOGISTIC AIR
SUPPORT NEEDED BY THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN PRESENCE IN ASMARA:
NAVCOMMU INCLUDING CISCO, AND CONGEN.

2. AS REPORTED EARLIER, ALL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS TO ASMARA HAVE
BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE JUNE 19, 1976 WITH NO EXPECTATION OF RESUMPTION
IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. ALL AIR TRAFFIC TO AND FROM ASMARA STEMS
FROM OTHER DOMESTIC AIRPORTS, PRIMARILY ADDIS ABABA. HOWEVER,
DOMESTIC EAL HAS REFUSED CARRY CERTAIN HEAVY CARGO; SPECIFICALLY,
TWO ROLLS OF CABLE (2200 LBS) ARE PRESENTLY IN ADDIS AWAITING
MOVEMENT TO ASMARA FOR USE IN TRANSMITTER INSTALLATION BY NAVCOMMU.

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(MOREOVER, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, EAL IS CARRYING NO AIR FREIGHT
EITHER WAY BETWEEN ADDIS AND ASMARA, AND WILL CARRY DIPLOMATIC

POUCHES AND FPO MAIL FROM ASMARA ONLY IF INSPECTED.)

3. IN ADDITION, NAVCOMMU HAS APPROX. 6250 LBS OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT READY TO SEND OUT. ABOUT 4000 LBS OF THIS IS COMPOSED OF 20 CRATES OF KW-26 (CRYPTO) EQUIPMENT WHICH MUST BE SHIPPED ON US MILITARY AIRCRAFT. MOST OF THIS CARGO IS TOO BULKY FOR TRANSPORT BY MAAG PLANES.

4. RECOMMENDATION: THAT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH EMBASSY ADDIS, CLEARANCE PROCEDURES BE INITIATED WITH ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES IN ADDIS AND ASMARA TO PERMIT ONE MAC FLIGHT OF C-141 TYPE AIRCRAFT TO HAUL FREIGHT BACKLOGGED AT ADDIS TO ASMARA AND TO CARRY OUT FROM ASMARA EXCESS EQUIPMENT DESCRIBED PARA 3. IF APPROPRIATE TIMING OF FLIGHT CAN BE ARRANGED, REQUIREMENT FOR MOVEMENT OF FOUR-MAN ARMY CALIBRATION TEAM WITH ITS EQUIPMENT COULD ALSO BE MET BY SAME AIRCRAFT (REFTEL A, PARA 2C).

5. THIS ONE-TIME RUN TO REDUCE BACKLOGS OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT WILL NOT MEET CONTINUING NEED FOR SOME TYPE OF REGULAR LOGISTIC AIR SUPPORT FOR ASMARA. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, GIVE US INITIAL READING WHETHER ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES IN ADDIS AND ASMARA ARE INDEED AMENABLE TO SUCH CARGO FLIGHTS. IN ADDITION, A ONE-TIME RUN WILL ENABLE US TO TEST POLITICAL ATMOSPHERICS AND REACTIONS BEFORE REACHING DECISIONS ON TYPE AND FREQUENCY OF FURTHER AIRLIFT SUPPORT TO ASMARA.

6. OIC NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA HAS READ AND CONCURS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ASMARA00547
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760271-0643
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760761/aaaacbpo.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ASMARA 504
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIR SUPPORT FOR ASMARA
TAGS: AFSP, ET
To: STATE ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006